



## Project and Program Report December 2022

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### 1. ACTIVE - Grant

#### Madera Strategic Wildfire Mitigation Project (GG17173)

Start Date: 11/1/2018    Finish Date: 9/13/2023

**Budget:**        \$3,613,747.00

**Spent:**         \$1,397,035.42

**Balance:**      \$2,216,711.58

**Partner:** Forest Service, CALFIRE

**Funder:** CALFIRE CCI Fire Prevention Fund

**A. Purpose:** The project will fund the strategic implementation of fuel breaks and defensible landscape projects in the Upper Chowchilla/Fresno River and the Upper San Joaquin River Watersheds.

#### **B. Current Activity:**

- The Goat Mt. portion of the project is complete.
- Sugar Pine & Cedar Valley Public Lands Contract is Complete. Sugar Pine Fuel Break and Sugar Pine DFPZ are complete. Cedar Valley DFPZ is complete. There is an
- Madera County Road Hazard Abatement Started July 2, 2022. All work has been completed aside from Road 420. The contractor is continuing work. In addition to masticating on the very steep areas, they allow locals to pick up piled wood to heat their homes over winter.

**C. Outreach:** Press release and KMPH FOX 26 piece for Road Project. Presentation at Eastern Madera County Emergency preparedness committee meeting. Shared updates on social media and in Newsletter. Progress Report posted on the website. Banners were placed for public information.

**E. Counties:** Madera

**F. Contact:** Capuchino (Project Management), Lavender (support)

## 2. ACTIVE - Grant

### Madera Projects - Southern Sierra All Lands Recovery and Restoration Project (SSARRP) (8GG18655)

**Start Date:** 8/2/2019    **Finish Date:** 3/31/2025

**Budget:** \$4,150,000.00

**Spent:** \$3,175,273.51

**Balance:** \$974,726.49

**Partner:** Sierra National Forest, North Fork Rancheria, University of Washington, American Forests

**Funder:** CALFIRE CCI Forest Health Fund

**A. Purpose:** This project will 1) reforest areas of high severity wildfires and dramatic tree mortality to promote ecosystem biodiversity and connectivity while restoring critical forest carbon stocks; 2) implement strategic fuel treatments that address public safety hazards and prepare for future prescribed fire and reforestation efforts; and 3) utilize strategic planning, LIDAR mapping analysis, and technical assistance from diverse partners to facilitate climate-informed and science-based restoration in the region over the next ten years.

**B. Current Activity:** University of Washington - LIDAR data distribution active/ongoing. USGS data is now available to the public. Part one of the Lidar workshops was held on Feb 3. Part 2 was held on 5/12 with over 20 participants. Lidar informational series is being created to be highlighted on social media 2. North Fork Rancheria - Mission Fire Recovery project is active; the final plan has been submitted to CAL Fire and is under review. American Forests - deliverables complete, using the remaining budget for partner coordination and planning, etc. USFS - Implementation contracts are active. The gathering of data planning for the French Fire Reforestation project has begun, and seedlings were planted this spring. The extension has been granted through 3/2025.

Site Tour 10/25/22

**C. Outreach:** Watershed Wednesday social media. Promoted Workshop to members and included links in Newsletter.

**D. Decisions:** None

**E. Counties:** Fresno, Madera, Mariposa

**F. Contact:** Lavender (support), Capuchino (Outreach)

### 3. ACTIVE - Grant

#### Blue Rush Restoration Project (SNC 1099)

**Start Date:** 10/18/2019 **Finish Date:** 6/30/2023

**Budget:** \$999,960.00

**Spent:** \$899,961.00

**Balance:** \$99,999

**Partner:** Sierra National Forest

**Funder:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**A. Purpose:** The Blue Rush Forest Restoration Project will treat 450 acres of public lands in Blue Canyon, in the Big Creek Watershed of the Sierra National Forest in Fresno County.

**B. Current Activity:** Site prep implementation is complete; prescribed fire took place on 01/2022. A press release went out as an announcement. The sign was ordered and delivered, and installed on 10/20/2022. **Grant extended to 5/1/2023.**

Closeout site tour-TBD, Public Site Tour-TBD With Winter and storm damage, access is unavailable; working with FS to find the time. Working with Fresno County to create an outreach video of the project to promote future projects.

**C. Outreach:** Working with Fresno County to plan a site visit and informational video.

**D. Decisions:** N/A

**E. Counties:** Fresno

**F. Contact:** Capuchino, Lavender (support)

#### 4. ACTIVE - Program

##### WIP Capacity (RFFCP) Southern Subregion (SNC 943)

**Start Date:** 10/18/2019 **Finish Date:** 1/31/2023

**Budget:** \$68,000.00

**Spent:** \$47,724.13

**Balance:** \$20,275.87

**Partner:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy, American Forests, Sierra Nevada Alliance

**Funder:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**A. Purpose:** YSRCDC will plan and implement a strategy to increase the capacity of land managers, local agencies, and nonprofits in the Southern Sierra Nevada to work together in planning, funding, and implementing forest health and wildfire prevention projects.

**B. Current Activity:** Grant deadline extended through 3/31/2023. An Early Action Funding proposal was submitted to SNC on 3/2022; we applied for a complete submission of up to \$495,000 in personnel, grant writing, and project development categories. Plan Development (DELIVERABLE) –Restarted the Forest Health Prioritization Subcommittee (FHPS) meetings to continue identifying prioritization indicators/criteria for future project planning/development and grant applications in the southern subregion. The prioritization process is otherwise complete except for some data refinement and maybe 1-2 additional meetings, either with FHPS or Full Council. American Forests is a Technical Assistance Provider for the program and is finalizing a corresponding map product and climate consideration tool. Contact with Kern County has been made, and in the process of bringing them into the fold.

Working on final report and outreach for close out.

**C. Outreach:** Progress in finding groups to help build projects, attending workshops, and working on SNC Tourism Grant. Progress Report posted on the website.

**D. Decisions:** none

**E. Counties:** Full Region + Kern

**F. Contact:** Capuchino (PM), Lavender (support)

## 5. ACTIVE- Program

### WIP Capacity Program Subgrant (972-RFFCP)

Start Date: 7/1/2022 End Date: 12/1/2024

Budget: \$495,000

Spent: \$0

Balance: \$495,000

Partner: Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Sierra Nevada Alliance

Funder: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**A. Purpose:** The goal of the RFFCP Early Action funding program is to build the capacity of regional partners to:

- *Engage in collaborative planning that covers multiple forest and community benefits*
  - *Engage partners in the Sequoia area of Kern County*
- *Establish a “pipeline of projects” to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration*
- *Move a project in Tulare County to Shovel Ready status*

**B. Current Activity:** Hired a fellow from Sierra Nevada Alliance to work directly with Kern County. She has moved forward and has begun working with key organizations. Raini met with Trudie (KFSC) and Ben (SNC) in December in Kernville. She has met with partner organizations (FS, SNC, KFSC, Plumas Corps) to form a committee; first committee is February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. She is also building maps, using data to support Kern County action toward forest resiliency.

EC has been working with Tulare County and Great Basin institute to move forward with the Posey and Sugar Loaf areas of TC.

EC has identified a grant writer to fulfill that aspect of the funding.

**C. Outreach:** RP is working with Kern

**D. Decisions:** Approve Grant writer

**E. Counties:** Tulare, Kern

**F. Contact:** Capuchino (Lead), Patteson (support & outreach), Lavender (support)

## 6. ACTIVE - Program

### Title III Firewise Coordination Program (Mad FW)

Start Date: 8/1/2020      Finish Date: 7/1/2024

**Budget:**            \$325,000

**Spent:**             \$55,786.05

**Balance:**          \$269,213.95

**Partner:** Madera County, CRCD

**Funder:** Madera County

**A. Purpose:** Expand the Firewise Program by forming other Firewise communities throughout Madera County, partnering with CRCD for program development, and hiring a Firewise coordinator position. YSRCDC will be providing oversight to the program and project management.

**B. Current Activity:** County agreement renewed from 7/1/2021 through 7/1/2024 (3-year program renewal). CRCD will remain a local partner/contractor for Firewise Coordination (including project development, community support, and more). The 3-year CRCD contract has been signed and executed. The grant CA Fire Safe Council County Coordinator Grant was applied for in partnership with Madera County. A new grant contract has been approved, and CRCD/YSRCDC will continue the partnership and support.

**C. Outreach:** Social media, website update, Firewise community collaborative posts across media outlets, newsletter, Mariposa Gazette, in-person meetings. Connecting all four counties in one session to arrange for Y/S to lead all counties in FireSafe and FireWise. Connecting CRCD to other groups looking to start Firewise programs to give advice and technical assistance.

**D. Decisions:** None

**E. Counties:** Madera

**F. Contact:** Capuchino (Outreach & Project Management), Lavender (support)

## 7. Supporting Partner

### Construction of North Fork Bioenergy Facility and Research on Forest Biomass Utilization (EPIC)

Start Date: 5/1/2015      Finish Date: 3/31/2024

**Budget:**      \$47,650.00

**Spent:**      \$29,344.81

**Balance:**      \$0 – In the process of digging into past invoices and reports to confirm these numbers as there is a new agreement.

**Partner:** The Watershed Research and Training Center, North Fork Community Power

**Funder:** California Energy Commission EPIC grant

**A. Purpose:** This project will fund the construction of a 2 MW combined heat and power gasification facility in the town of North Fork and then will fund subsequent research by UC Merced into gasification technology and the utilization of forest biomass for bioenergy.

**B. Current Activity:** Construction is underway. Reestablished connection with WRTC. EC met Martin and Greg on-site on 8/31/22. Received an updated contract with WRTC; SOW is a once-a-month site visit, reports, and outreach to the community. Promoted and attended Bio Energy day and tours on 10/19/22. Working with Phonix to hold a job fair on Earth Day 2023. Discussion with UC Merced project to bring hand piles to the plant.

**C. Outreach:** Social Media posts and press releases for events and public info needs.

**D. Decisions:** None

**E. Counties:** Madera

**F. Contact:** Capuchino